Family Weekend
FALL 2023

welcome.ufl.edu/families/family-weekend
Parents & Families

WELCOME TO FAMILY WEEKEND!

Dear Gator Families,

You’ve Made It! WELCOME! We are excited to have you here for Family Weekend 2023. We have designed a number of exciting events for your family to enjoy. Please use this as your guide to all things Family Weekend.

We hope these events provide you the chance to discover some of the wonderful opportunities available to your student throughout the university and in the Gainesville community. Above all, we encourage you to take advantage of the occasion to spend quality time with your Gator as you create memories that will last a lifetime.

Again, we are pleased to have you on campus for Family Weekend, and we hope you have a wonderful experience during your time at The University of Florida.

Go Gators!

Center for New Student & Family Programs
**Schedule Key**

**SIGNATURE EVENTS:** These are events are highly encouraged for all UF Family Weekend attendees to attend.

**ADDITIONAL ACTION NEEDED:** Additional RSVP, Registration, or purchase was required for the attendance of this event.

**FOR FAMILY MEMBERS ONLY:** This event is catered to Parents and Family Members. Students and Children are welcome but not encouraged to attend.

**APPROVED FOR ALL AGES:** This event is approved for Gators of all ages!

**FIRST-GEN FOCUSED:** If your student is the first in their family to attend college, they are considered a First-Generation Student, so you are a First-Generation Gator Family! This event is designed for First-Gen Gators!

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The Family Weekend schedule is available digitally through GatorWay, a free mobile application, courtesy of New Student & Family Programs.

To download, visit your device’s app store and search GATORWAY.

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The Family Weekend Help Desk will be located in the Reitz Union, Room 2355 during the Family Weekend at the following times:

- **Thursday:** 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- **Friday:** 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**NEED FAMILY WEEKEND ASSISTANCE?**

Call or text the Family Weekend Hotline at 352-363-1485
Friday, November 3

☐ GATOR RESOURCE SCAVENGER HUNT
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Various Campus Locations
Visit on-campus resources and UF locations to complete your Gator Hunt Passport (located in your Fall Family Weekend envelope). Afterwards, stop by the Family Weekend Help Desk (Reitz Union, Room 2355) to turn in your stamp page for a chance to win a prize.

WHILE MY STUDENT IS SLEEPING
Events that happen at various times and locations that you can attend without your Gator, or “while they are sleeping”.

☐ MORNING YOGA
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. | Southwest Rec, Activity Room 3
Start your Family Weekend off with a relaxing yoga class taught by Rec Sports Yoga Instructor Chandra! Pull out your favorite mats and come prepared to stretch, breathe, and sweat with other UF Family Members. (Participants should plan to show up a little early in case they need to fill out a waiver before the class).

☐ DONUTS WITH THE DEAN
9:30 - 10:30 a.m. | Reitz Union, Room 2340
Meet UF’s Interim Dean of Students, Jonathan Yorkowitz, for donuts, coffee, and conversation! Ask questions about student life, on campus resources, anything UF, and Gainesville related.

☐ TOUR OF THE UF PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. | UF Division of Public Safety
The Community Services Division (CSD) of the UFPD recognizes the importance of establishing close ties to the community they serve. This is why they want you to join Officer Victor Beguiristain on an exciting tour of the NEW UF Public Safety Building! Learn all about the services CSD has to offer and you will even have the ability to register your Gators bicycles/e-scooters onsite!
FIRST-GEN MIXER
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. | Reitz Union, Room 2335
A First-Generation college student is defined as “a student whose parent(s) did not complete a four-year college or university degree”. Come engage with other first-generation college students and families to learn how MFOS supports first-generation college students.

HOUSING BEYOND FRESHMAN YEAR
10:30 - 11:30 a.m., and 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. | Reitz Union - Auditorium
Do you have a gator that is moving or wanting to move off campus next year and you are unsure of where to start? The department of Off Campus Life is here to help! Off Campus Life hopes to share with you the ends and outs of the apartment search, and all the resources out there for your aspiring off-campus Gator.

LUNCH
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | On Your Own
Enjoy eating with your gator at any of our on-campus dinning locations or venture off-campus and explore all the eats and treats Gainesville has to offer.

TEACHING KITCHEN STUDIO WITH FLORIDA FRESH DINING
12:00 p.m, 1:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m | The Food Hall at Gator Corner
The first 25 people pre-registered per class, please join Florida Fresh Dining for a unique cooking class. The dining team features local, fresh from Florida produce, and an array of seasonal selections. Eat and greet with the campus dietitian, executive chefs and hear a presentation about the future of dining at the University of Florida. #LoveWhereYouChomp

CRAFT-A-GATOR
1:00 - 6:30 p.m. | Reitz Union – Ground Level, Room G320
Create a lasting memory with your Gator! Join the Arts & Craft Center who is hosting “Craft-A-Gator”, a time to relax and paint a family keepsake with your student. Each registered guest may paint their own custom wood gator or choose to paint as a family. If there is space available, day of, you can add your family via the QR code!

WHILE MY STUDENT IS IN CLASS
These interactive lectures and presentations are designed to give Family Members a first look into the in-classroom experience. Full descriptions and any reading material are available digitally through GatorWay.

1:05 - 1:55 p.m. | Block 1
- Dr. Gayle Evans & Dr. Kristen Apraiz | Building a Community of Learners in the STEM Classroom, 2330
- Kathryn McGill | How does your student learn physics, and why should you care? | Room, 2325
- Alex Santiago & Coral Rodriguez-Lipstein | Fist Year Florida: Exploring Your Role as the Head Cheerleader | Room, 2320
WHILE MY STUDENT IS IN CLASS (CONTINUED)

2:05 - 2:55 p.m. | **Block 2**

- Amy Williams | **One Planet, Two Planets, Red Planet, Blue Planet: The Exploration of Mars** | Room, 2340

- Ben Smith | **The Political Science of Oil Wealth** | Room, 2335

- Gregory David & Ethan Shaffer | **First Year Florida: Exploring Your Role as the Head Cheerleader** | Room, 2320

- Kathryn McGill | **How does your student learn physics, and why should you care?** | Room, 2325

**AFFINITY SPACE MEET UP**

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. | Institute of Black Culture

This event is centered around learning more about the resources offered to Students of Color, while also learning and touring the Center of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement (CIME) Institutes. Come unwind, make connections, and build community, with students, staff, and light refreshments, while being in community with Family Weekend attendees who share an identity that is important to you!

**PARENT CHATS**

5:15 - 6:00 p.m. | Reitz Union, Room 2320

Have a burning question that only a seasoned parent and family of an upper-level gator can answer? Join some of our Family Ambassadors, who are parents of 3rd and 4th year Gators, in a panel we are calling Parent Chats! Use this time to ask questions to other parents and family members who have been in your shoes and get some insight on what it is like to support your gator through their college journey.

**FAMILY FIELD DAY KICK-OFF**

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Southwest Rec, Softball Fields

This event will kick off Fall Family Weekend and serve as a welcome for parents and families. Families will be able to mix and mingle with other Gator families, while also engaging with student and staff volunteers, as well as NSFP staff. There will be food trucks serving sweet treats, inflatables, a selfie station, and various games located across the field. This family-filled event will set the tone for this spectacular weekend.

**GATOR NIGHTS: "FLASHBACK FRIDAY"**

7:00 - 10:00 p.m. | Reitz Union

Join your student at the leading late-night program in the Southeast! Gator Nights offers the latest movies, arts and crafts, activities, and more with this one tailored for Family Weekend. Experience a night at the Reitz and play games, win prizes, enjoy refreshments, and more!
FAMILY WEEKEND REMINDER

In order to participate in family weekend events, you must wear your family weekend wristbands!

Saturday, November 4

**LATER GATOR CHECK-IN**
8:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Reitz Union Terrace

Family members will check into Fall Family Weekend outside at the Reitz Union Tabling Area. All families will receive a Fall Family Weekend bag with the appropriate number of wristbands, swag items, vouchers, and schedules. There will be a Help Desk for questions about missing items, registration needs, and any other concerns.

**FAMILY TAILGATE**
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Reitz Union, North Lawn

Prior to attending the UF v. Arkansas football game, families and students will have access to the Family Tailgate for food and fun! All guests must be wearing their Fall Family Weekend wristbands for access to catering, seating, TVs, and any other entertainment at the tailgate.

Families will be responsible for finding parking on their own for this event. Football tickets will be available via the Florida Gators app.

**FOOTBALL GAME: GATORS VS ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS**
12:00 p.m. (Noon) | Ben Hill Griffin Stadium

Sport your orange and blue Gator Spirit attire with pride as our Florida Gators play the Arkansas Razorbacks in the Swamp! Make sure to arrive at least 30 minutes early to watch the pregame show!

**DALE K COMEDY HYPNOSIS SHOW**
Doors open - 5:30 p.m. | Show - 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Reitz Union, Grand Ballroom

He has hypnotized over one million people worldwide; for one night only, you will get the chance to be hypnotized by Dale K "Almost Evil Comedy Hypnotist." Volunteers will take an exciting journey through their imagination experiencing the impossible and audience members will be shocked, amazed and consumed with laughter as they witness the unthinkable!
Sunday, November 5

POSTCARDS & PARFAITS
9:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Reitz Union Terrace

Wrap up Fall Family Weekend with a grab and go breakfast for your travels home. Before saying goodbye to your Gator, end your weekend strong by writing your gator a heartfelt letter and we’ll send it out! Or grab a card and take it home for later use.

PINNING CEREMONY
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Reitz Union, Rion Ballroom

Come and enjoy a classy brunch dressed in your Gator Best! This Fall Family Weekend exclusive event is a reception where you get to pin your legacy gator and celebrating their accomplishments.

Attire: Gator Best / Brunch Formal
Choose Your Own Adventure

BAT EMERGENCE

Every Evening; 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. | UF Bat Barn & Bat Houses

Join your Gator for an evening stroll near the UF Bat Barn & Bat Houses. The bats normally emerge during a 15- to 20-minute period after sunset, before total darkness on calm, warm evenings when temperatures are above 65 F.

LAKE WAUBURG

No matter the activity, there is something at Lake Wauburg for you! A few activities include paddle boarding, kayaking, sailing, trail hiking, biking, rock climbing, and sand volleyball. Or simply enjoy a family picnic or just relax on the beach. **The swimming area at North Shore is closed.** Families will be able to visit Lake Wauburg during Family Weekend between the following hours:

North Shore
- Friday | 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday & Sunday | 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

South Shore
- Friday | 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday & Sunday | 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Students must have UFID to gain entry. There are 4 guests allowed per UFID.

REITZ UNION GAME ROOM

See tickets for hours of operation | Ground Level, Reitz Union

Located on the Ground Floor of the Rietz Union, we have our Reitz Union Game Room. The Game Room offers Bowling, Billiards, Foosball, and more! Utilize your 1 hour free Bowling and Billiards tickets, located in the envelope you received at check-in. Hours of operation are located on the back of the tickets.

REC SPORTS ACCESS

All guests over the age of 18 who are registered for Family Weekend are invited to use both Southwest Recreation Center and Student Recreation and Fitness Center throughout the weekend. In addition to two state-of-the art fully equipped fitness centers, Rec Sports welcomes families to participate in structured classes as well.
FAMILY WEEKEND TIP

Attendance at every Family Weekend event is nearly impossible. To get the most of your Family Weekend experience, we encourage you to plan which events you’ll attend as a Family. Most events are designed so you can freely come and go as you please. Events that are not hosted by New Student & Family Programs may require additional entry fees.
What’s Happening Around Gainesville?

For more information on these community events, please refer to the Gatorway app.

BORED TEACHERS COMEDY TOUR
Thursday, November 2 | 7:30 p.m.

Philips Center
3201 Hull Road | Gainesville, FL 32611

KANAPAHA BOTANICAL GARDENS
4700 SW 58th Dr | Gainesville, FL 32608
- Thursday – Closed
- Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to the earlier of 7:00 p.m. or dusk
- Sunday - 9:00 a.m. to the earlier of 7:00 p.m. or dusk

DEVILS MILLHOPPER GEOLOGICAL STATE PARK
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. | Wednesday through Sunday.
- $4 per vehicle, up to 8 visitors.
- $2 pedestrians and bicyclists.

4732 Millhopper Rd | Gainesville, FL 32653

MUSEUMS

Florida Museum of Natural History
3215 Hull Rd | Gainesville, FL 32611

Harn Museum of Art
3259 Hull Rd | Gainesville, FL 32608

Cade Museum
811 S Main St | Gainesville, FL 32601

Matheson History Museum
513 E University Ave | Gainesville, FL 32601

THORNEBROOK FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
Friday, November 3 | 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

2441 NW 43rd Street | Gainesville, 32606

DEPOT PARK PARKRUN
Saturday, November 4 | 7:30 a.m.

874 SE 4 St. | Gainesville, FL 32601

SANTA FE ZOO
Friday - Sunday | 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

3000 NW 83 St | Gainesville, FL 32606

THE BRIAR PATCH: "FALL ON THE FARM"
Every Saturday & Sunday | 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

5700 SW 250th St. | Newberry, FL 32669
PARKING

Parking is extremely limited throughout campus, so please plan accordingly. Each family will receive one parking pass at check-in to be used in designated lots; Thursday, November 2nd and Friday, November 3rd. Most Parking restrictions are lifted daily at 4:30 p.m. and all-day Saturday - Sunday. Parking location will be specified on Parking Pass. Guests who utilize handicap accessible parking will need the family weekend parking pass as well as their state issued Disabled Persons Parking Placard. Scan this QR code to view a campus map.

GAME DAY

PARKING: Gameday parking is very limited, but not impossible! No parking pass is needed for Saturday, as most parking restrictions are lifted. Use the map located on pages 13 and 14 to view gameday parking locations. Whether or not you decide to drive is up to you, but we recommend using the Regional Transit System (RTS) or Ride Sharing (Uber, Lyft, etc.) for parking on Saturday. Please do not park in reserved spaces or service drives.

TICKETS: If you have any questions about your football tickets please email ticketoffice@gators.ufl.edu or call (352) 375-4683.

FAMILY WEEKEND TIP

To participate in family weekend events, you must wear your family weekend wristbands!

In the case of rain, outdoor locations may be updated via GatorWay. RSVP (optional) for any event by utilizing the Check-In feature on GatorWay. Events that are not hosted by New Student & Family Programs may require additional entry fees.
CLEAR BAG POLICY

Don’t worry, the clear bag you got at Family Weekend check-in is usable for the game!

✓ Clear plastic, vinyl or PVC bags that do not exceed 12"x6"x12"
  • A logo no larger than 4.5"x3.4" can be displayed on one side of a permissible clear bag.
  • A clear bag shall be clear from top-to-bottom and up to a 2" trim/border on the bag is generally acceptable.

✓ One-gallon clear, re-sealable plastic storage bag

✓ Small clutch bags no larger than 4.5"x6.5", approximately the size of a hand, with or without a handle or strap

✓ Medically necessary items (after proper inspection)

PROHIBITED ITEMS

✗ Outside food or drink (including alcoholic beverages)
  • Fans are permitted to bring one commercially branded (i.e.: Aquafina) empty plastic water bottles, no larger than 20 oz., into Ben Hill Griffin Stadium

✗ Artificial Noise Makers

✗ Personal seatbacks

✗ Ice chests or bags

✗ Strollers

✗ Tobacco products (including e-cigarettes, vapor pens, and chewing tobacco)

✗ Umbrellas

✗ Video cameras/cases

✗ Weapons
SOCIAL MEDIA

Connect with us online! Use the hashtag #FFW23 on Facebook and Instagram and visit your Family Facebook Group to share stories about your Family Weekend experience!

@NewUFGators